CELEBRATING 28 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

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NEWSLETTER & MEDIA STAFF

Ms. Rita Meneses, Editor, Cultural Resources Manager
SGT Damian J. M. Smith, Articles/Photos/Command Historian
Ms. Carolyn O’Day Malfara, Webmaster
This year’s reunion was met with great weather unlike several recent reunions. The veterans enjoyed the hospitality of Fort Indiantown Gap as well as several of the local museums in the Harrisburg area including the Hershey Story Museum and the National Civil War Museum.

Next year’s reunion will be held 9-12 September 2015. On September 11, there will be a trip to Washington D.C. with a wreath laying ceremony at the Tombs of the Unknowns and visits to various monuments and museums. Dinner will be held at Fort Meade. Contact the 28th ID Association for further details or check their website.
CHAPEL DEDICATION
SAVE THE DATE!!!

The Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum will dedicate the newest building at the museum complex, the 109th Infantry Regimental Chapel, on April 17, 2015. The Museum will provide additional information on its website and on its Facebook page.

The Chapel was originally the Rankstown one-room school house. During WWII, it was converted into one of 12 post chapels used at the Gap.

MUSEUM NOMINATED FOR 3 NATIONAL AWARDS

AASLH bestows Leadership in History Awards to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all Americans. By publicly recognizing superior and innovative achievements, the Leadership in History Awards serve as an inspiration to others in the field.

This year, the PNGMM had 3 nominations that made it through the state committee to the national awards. In publications, Back at the Gap, the book written by Maj. Gen. Frank Smoker, Jr.; in Special Projects, the Rehabilitation of the 1890s Range House; in Individual Achievement, Mr. Charles B. Oellig, the Museum Director, for volunteering more than 37,500 hours in nearly 3 decades of volunteer service at the Museum.

Out of the 3 nominations, the Museum received an award for Mr. Oellig for lifetime service. His award is on display at the museum.

Congratulations Mr. Oellig!

2014 YEAR OF REVIEW

The year 2014 was a productive growth year. Our tour group numbers almost doubled those of 2013. Museum attendance of officially signed in visitors increased over 300. The Museum website surpassed more then 790,000 hits, and Facebook membership increased to over 803 members. The site has weekly posts of national and military history. Major items for the Museum included completing the renovation of the 109th Regimental Chapel and continuing work on three World War II and Korean era jeeps to full running capability.

The Chapel would not have been completed without the generous support of our membership providing additional funding as well as the 201st Red Horse Alumni Association volunteers, who worked for two years on the restoration of the Chapel. Their dedication to detail and hard work produced outstanding results in restoring the Chapel to its original appearance. A very special THANK YOU to all.

Below are just a few of the numbers showing the increase in 2014 over 2013 numbers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Numbers</th>
<th>+ From Previous Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Museum Visitors (Signed in)</td>
<td>1,931</td>
<td>+328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Tour Groups</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>+28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face Book Members:</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>+296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Website 2014 stats include:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Unique Visitors</td>
<td>26,950</td>
<td>+7,439</td>
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<tr>
<td>-Website Visitors</td>
<td>36,929</td>
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<tr>
<td>-Bandwidth Data</td>
<td>41.14 GB</td>
<td>+12.20 GB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Historical Queries Requests Answered:
Museum Director          | 384
Command Historian        | 283
Total                     | 667
FTIG OPEN HOUSE

by SGT Damian J. M. Smith

Fort Indiantown Gap hosted an open house, the first since 2008, for the general public on September 6, 2014, at Muir Army Airfield. Opening ceremonies began at 11:00 a.m. Pictured above is the Merci Train or the French Gratitude Train.

The family friendly event showcased the duties that the airman and soldiers of the Pennsylvania National Guard perform at the post. With more than 17,000 acres and 140 training areas, Fort Indiantown Gap provides the most current training and latest technology support to the military as well as local law enforcement agencies, first responders, and other authorized users.

The PA National Guard Military Museum was open for tours throughout the day. Live music performances were provided by a USO Troupe and the Air National Guard Band of the Northeast. The public was able to inspect various military vehicles and aircraft on display.

Ten brand new static displays were located at the event entrance. Various monuments and other historic displays across the street from the airfield drew many visitors. Besides the usual helicopters, tanks, and trucks, there was a rock wall hosted by the Recruiting Office, a bounce house, various food vendors, an environmental display, state partnership program, and various military specialties with their assigned training equipment. Pictured above is Joe Hovis of the Bureau of Environmental Management.

That display is always fun for the kids. The GAP is home to the Regal Fritillary Butterfly and 1000 native plant and animal specials. The environmental team has won numerous DoD, Army, and National Guard Bureau awards for environmental stewardship.
DeMARCO EXHIBIT IN WASHINGTON D.C.

by SGT Damian J. M. Smith

The Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum is proud to have loaned various artifacts from the 28th Infantry Division’s World War II service in the European Theater of Operations to the National Guard Memorial Museum under the National Guard Educational Foundation.

Recently, the Museum loaned the Captain Michael DeMarco collection for display in Washington D.C. Captain DeMarco was a medical doctor serving in the 112th Infantry Regiment who was captured on the opening day on the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944 as he took care of wounded American soldiers. Captain DeMarco was a POW at OFLAG 13B in Hammelburg, Germany, until the end of the War. His son, Frank E. DeMarco, and his wife were able to make the trip from New York for the dedication of the new exhibit in Washington.

The 28th Infantry Division also has other items featured in the museum such as various war posters and pictures from World War I to the global war on terrorism (GWOT). The only World War I exhibit located in the museum displays the Private Reno collection. Reno was a 28th Infantry Division soldier who served 18 months overseas during World War I.

Photo of opening night of the new WWII exhibits. From left to right is SGT Damian J. M. Smith, PA Command Historian; Ms. Stephanie L. Olsen, PA Historical Preservation Specialist; Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. DeMarco, Ms. Anne C. Armstrong, Deputy Director, National Guard Educational Foundation; Mr. William B. Boehm, National Guard Bureau Historian. Photo provided by SGT Damian J. M. Smith.

Photo of the World War I Private Reno Collection by SGT Damian J. M. Smith.

Photo of Frank E. DeMarco, son of Captain DeMarco, in front of his father’s display in Washington. We are proud that Frank also wore his PNGMM pin to the event opening. Photo by SGT Damian J. M. Smith.

MUSEUM PICNIC IS SET

SAVE THE DATE!!!

The 6th Annual Museum Spring Picnic will be held on the Museum grounds on May 20, 2015.

Additional information including the time and lunch cost will be provided on the upcoming event on the Museum website and on the Museum Facebook page, or call Ms. Stephanie Olsen at 717-861-6793.
The 6th Annual Foxhole Invitational was held on September 6, 2014, at Blue Mountain Golf Course. The tournament originated in September 2009 to support the Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum, which serves as a tribute to our veterans—past, present, and future. In 2010, the tournament was dedicated to Maj. Gen. Frank H. Smoker, Jr., who passed away on July 16, 2010. General Smoker served as president of the Museum since its inception in 1985 until January 2010.

This year’s tournament was a huge success, and we couldn’t do it with the support of our golfers, sponsors and volunteers. Saturday was an absolutely beautiful day for golf, and a great time was had by all!!

Chaplain Luke Phillips, pictured on the next page, welcomed our golfers and opened the tournament with thoughts and prayers for our troops and a good day on the course.

A special t-shirt was presented to Frenchy Brenier for coming out to play as he has each and every year. We were so happy to see him having a great time on the course.

NOTE – CHANGE OF VENUE: Next year the 7th Annual Foxhole Invitational will be held on September 12 at Pine Meadows Golf Course. We will have the same fun contests, a buffet dinner, and lots of prizes! Mark your calendar now!!! Check our website www.foxholegolf.com or call Sharon Flaig - 717-821-3790 or email foxholegolf@gmail.com.

All golf pictures—Photos by Nattie—Jonestown

1st Place Team – sponsored by Fredericksburg Eagle Hotel
Scot Adams, Lebanon
Brad Getz, Lebanon
Keith Falatovich, Sinking Springs
Doug Shirk, Lebanon

2nd Place Team
Col Raymond Hawthorne, Annville
Bill Pence III
Rick Webber
Randy Barlet

3rd Place Team
Pam Arnold, Lykens
Bob Wert
Ernie Kissinger
Lori Kissinger

Putting Contest
Brett Larkheck, representing the 28th ID

Longest Drive Winners
Men’s – Shane Kneasel, Lebanon
Women’s – Kay Spannuth
Senior’s – Ben Dohner

Closest to the Pin
Lori Kissinger

Hole In One
Donna Kriner, Palmyra (Hole #12)

Our very first since the start of the tournament!
SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Museum and the Golf Committee (Sharon Flaig, Chair, Rita Meneses, Stephanie Olsen, Shannan Zerance) would like to thank the following sponsors of the 2014 golf tournament. It is your sponsorship that makes a meaningful impact in helping us complete projects that preserve and protect our military history in the community. We could not do it without you.

109th Infantry Regiment Association
28th Infantry Division Staff Officer’s Mess
AAA
AACA Museum
Advance Auto
James H. Albrite
Avon—Wendy Zimmerman
B&G Lumber
Becky Bacher
Barnes and Noble
CSM (Ret.) Dale Beaston
BGs Value Market
Blue Mountain Golf Course
Bumble Bee Hollow Golf Center
Carlisle Barracks Golf Course
Anthony Carrelli
Cedar Lanes
SGM (Ret.) Herm Clemens
Commonwealth Transportation Consultants
Corvette Grill & Bar
COSTCO
Terry & Marsha Davis
Delaware Creek
David W. Demmy Sr.

Dozi Robinson
Easy Siders
David Edwards
Ephrata National Bank
Ester’s Restaurant
Fabio’s
Farmstead Farmers market
Fredericksburg Eagle Hotel
Fog’s Hollow Tavern & Restaurant
FROYOS
FTIG Soldier’s and Airmen’s Memorial Chapel
Fulton Bank
Funck’s Restaurant & Mini Market
Gettysburg Foundation
Giant Food Stores
Good Samaritan Hospital
Greenscastle Associates Consulting
Harper’s Tavern & Restaurant
COL (Ret.) Raymond S. Hawthorne
James Hendrinkson
Hershey Theatre
Hoffman Ford
Honorable Samuel E. Hayes, Jr.
Hornung’s Family Home Center
Huey’s Concessions
Hutter’s Store
Italian Delight Pizza & Restaurant
Izod Hershey Outlets
Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Stan Jaworski
Jonestown Bank & Trust Company
Jonestown Beer & Soda
James R. Joseph

1st Place Team with Sharon Flaig, Tournament Chair

2nd Place Team
Volunteers Amanda Harrah, and Megan Welch with our Golf Pro
**DONATIONS**

Donation of books, unit patches, DUls, and a collection of 82 Challenge Coins from CSM (Ret.) Richard Fonner.

A collection of books and videos by Mr. Thomas Hastings.

A 1953 HBT Jacket and four 108th Field Artillery photographs donated by Rudolf E. Heubach.

A collection of books donated by Jackie Kruper.

A panoramic photograph of Company H, 110th Infantry Regiment from 1919, a flag from the Multinational Brigade Task Force Eagle during SFOR donated by CSM (Ret.) Horace Pysher.

A framed photograph of HQs Battery, 166th Field Artillery at Camp Pickett from 1961 donated by Sheldon Silver.

A collection of 28th ID Sheet music, 1943 Christmas Dinner menu, and seven PA Guardsman Newspapers from 1941 from the 10th Mountain Division Museum from Fort Drum, NY.

A walking cane used at an American Civil War “GAR” Reunion held in Harrisburg, PA. The cane is marked “Osborne Division.” It was used by Captain Thomas Ward, Battery D, First NY Artillery, which was formed in September 1861 at Watertown, NY, donated by David W. Oswald.

A World War II MP Leather equipment set. The set includes a Sam Brown Belt, leather pistol holster, first aid pouch, pistol magazine holder, night stick holder, lanyard, and chest strap. The set was donated by Mr. John N. Bisbano, Jr.

A practice rocket used for training.

A donated framed picture of the 28th ID monument during a winter snowfall.
NEW SIGNS AT FORT INDIANTOWN GAP

There have been a number of new historical signs popping up around the post. Besides the 10 new static displays with museum signs at the intersection of Clement and Fisher Avenues, Major Angela King-Sweigart, Fort Indiantown Gap Public Affairs Officer, and Mr. Thomas Cherry, Department of Military and Veteran Affair’s Media Specialist, developed two brand new museum signs.

Located near Muir Army Airfield, these signs show several of the current displays at the museum. The two signs have the Museum hours of operation, phone number, website, and a map of how to go from the current location of the sign to the museum. It is an amazing asset for the museum.

A second series of historical signs have been developed by the Cultural Resources Staff, Ms. Stephanie Olsen and Ms Rita Meneses. Designed by Ms. Olsen, the first of a half dozen signs was placed just outside the Post Headquarters building, which was, acquired from the Bomberger family in 1931. It was originally their dairy barn, and the family log home once stood across Fisher Avenue. A second sign is located at St. Joseph’s Spring. This area served local residents and visitors as a nearby trading post and hotel in the 1800s. In 1937, the WPA redid the spring with the current rock formation. The sign also maps Indiantown Run, where Joseph Raber was drowned and the nearby location of Franklin Stichler’s grave between the tank trail and McLean Road. He was one of the Blue Eyed Six. Additional information may be found on the Lebanon County Historical Society Site.

MUSEUM WINTER MAINTENANCE

As the fall season arrived, and the temperature dipped, the curator and the exhibit manager completed some winter maintenance at the Museum. The Civil War Cannon received some conservation from Mr. John Schreffler, (top picture) including sanding the wood and cleaning and repainting the entire field artillery piece with the correct paint scheme.

Elsewhere around the Museum, preparations were made for the upcoming winter. State Reser-
vation Maintenance completed removal of the picnic tables and winterized the building, fixing some small cracks with foam insulation. The Museum Director, Mr. Charles Oellig, is shown below putting several coats of paint for the upcoming winter on the emergency exit’s wooden steps.
BOOK REVIEW
by CHARLES B. OELLIG

First at Arlington, The William Christman Story, by Rick Bodenschatz contains fifty pages in a soft cover and is illustrated in both black and white and color. The cost is $11.95.

This is a fascinating and nicely crafted story about William Henry Christman and his family. William, at the age of 20, on March 25, 1864, made the journey from Tobyhanna Township in Monroe County to Easton to enlist in the 67th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. His older brother Barnabus had been killed in action on June 30, 1862, at the Battle of New Market, Crossroads, Virginia, when he was only 20.

The author recounts how, by chance, William became the first soldier to be buried at what would become Arlington National Cemetery.

There are a few copies available at the PNG Military Museum, and they are also available directly from the author at Rick-Boden@msn.com

MUSEUM TOUR GROUPS

Hope Springs Farm Group #8
PA State Police Camp
Ebenezer Tour Group
Philadelphia Police Explorer Scout Group
Battle Staff Course Group #13
Battle Staff Course Group #14
Foreign Civil Air Patrol Group
Developmental Disabilities Services of Lebanon County
Battle Staff Course Group #15
Battle Staff Course Group #16
31st 28th ID Reunion Veterans
FTIG Open House
Special Category Army with the Air Force (SCARWAF) Veterans Group
Battle Staff Course Group #17
Battle Staff Course Group #18

Boy Scout Troop #31 (Fort Indiantown Gap)
Battle Staff Course Group #19
Battle Staff Course Group #20

Photo by SGT Damian J. M. Smith
Thank you to our recently renewing or new members. The Museum is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, and tax deductible dues or donations may be sent to:

PNG Military Museum
Building T-8-57
Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA 17003-5003

Membership application forms are available on the Museum website:

www.pngmilitarymuseum.org

Although space constraints prevent listing everyone who has joined or renewed their PNGMM memberships over the last couple of months, we would like to recognize as many patrons as we can. Here is a partial listing of Regular, Family, Life, and Business memberships for Winter 2014.

Robert Miller (Life)
Robert Devine Jr. (Regular)
Joseph Holt (Family)
George Padar (Regular)
Kelly Fonner (Family)
Wallace Morgan (Family)
Kelly Fonner (Family)
Jim Peiffer (Regular)
William Henry Thomas (Regular)
Charles B. Oellig (Regular)
Donna Weik (Family)
David Semmy, Sr. (Family)
Larry Erdley (Regular)

We would like to thank those members and patrons of the military museum who donated financial support (above their membership) for the care of artifacts and building projects or in memory or in honor of someone who has served.

Allen L. Kifer
Donald J. Tressler
28th Infantry Division Association
Daniel C. Gallagher
Nedette B. Otterbein
Larry L. Erdley
Joseph W. Holt
Wilbur Wolf III
Kelly Fonner
Wallace Morgan
Kelly Fonner
Donna Weik

We offer an electronic version of the newsletter for our Museum members. If you would like to receive you newsletter via email instead of a mailed copy, please contact SGT Damian J. M. Smith at e-damsmith@pa.gov.

You can try it, and if you don’t like it, you can always revert back to the original mailed copy of the newsletter.
MUSEUM WISH LIST

If you have objects that you wish to donate to the Museum, please contact us at (717) 861-2402. Please provide information regarding the item, its age, or the conflict it’s related to, its connection to Pennsylvania, your contact information, and, if possible, photographs of the object. The more information the better. Listed are just some items we are looking for:

- Armory items from Across the State
- American Civil War Items
- EAASTS, Army and Air Guard unit patches
- Spanish American War Items
- Items from Mt. Gretna during the time the Pennsylvania National Guard trained there in the late 1880s to 1930s
- Military History books for our Museum and archive library
- Kosovo Items (PA Guard Items)
- Bosnia Items (PA Guard Items)
- OIF Items (PA Guard Items)
- OEF Items (PA Guard Items)
- Unit Challenge Coins

2015 CALENDAR OF HISTORY & EVENTS

2015

MARCH
12-20 28th Infantry Division’s Birthday. America Oldest Division. Happy Birthday

APRIL
17 Museum Chapel Dedication
31 FTIG Insignia Swapmeet

MAY

JUNE
5-7 25th Mid-Atlantic WWII Weekend, Reading Airport
14 Army Birthday & Flag Day

JULY
4 Independence Day
18 FTIG Insignia Swapmeet

AUGUST
6 Birthday of the 213th ASG

SEPTEMBER
1 Labor Day
9-12 28th Infantry Division Reunion at Fort Indian town Gap
12 Maj. Gen. Frank H. Smoker 7th Annual Fox hole Invitational

OCTOBER
13 Columbus Day

NOVEMBER
7 FTIG Insignia Swapmeet
11 Veterans Day

DECEMBER
7 Pennsylvania National Guard’s Birthday - originally formed in 1747 by Benjamin Franklin
13 Birthday of the National Guard
25 Christmas

2016

JANUARY
1 New Years Day
CURATOR’S CORNER by CHARLES B. OELLIG

Pictured here are six unidentified soldiers of Company D, 108th Machine Gun Battalion, 28th Infantry Division enjoying some leisure time while in training at Camp Hancock, Georgia, in late 1917 or early 1918. They were preparing to go to France to fight the Hun in the Great War.

In the back row is the percussionist with his .45 caliber colt pistol along with two buglers. In the front row, a man with a fiddle, another with a guitar and another with a Russian Balalaika appear ready to play a tune. I wonder what that combination of instruments sounded like?

Photo from PNGMM’s Archives

This is the 42nd in a series of historical photographs of Pennsylvania National Guardsmen of the past, submitted by Charles Oellig, curator of the Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum at Fort Indiantown Gap. The museum is open Mondays and Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or other days by appointment. Call (717) 861-2402, or visit www.pngmilitarymuseum.org for more information or to schedule an appointment. The museum is closed on major holidays.
Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum  
Bldg 8–57—Service Road  
Fort Indiantown Gap  
Annville, PA 17003-5003

**HOURS**

Hours are 10:00-4:30 (Monday & Friday).

To schedule an appointment to visit the museum at a time not listed, call our Museum Director, Mr. Charlie B. Oellig, Monday & Friday at 717-861-2402, our Command Historian, SGT Damian J. M. Smith, at 717-861-2464, or the Historic Preservation Specialist, Ms. Stephanie Olsen, at 717-861-6793.

**DIRECTIONS**

From I-81, take exit 85B(northbound) or exit 85 (southbound), Fort Indiantown Gap exit, and proceed north on Route 934. At the first red light on post, turn right onto Service Road and drive four tenths of a mile. The Museum is located at the corner of Service Road and Wiley Road, building number T-8-57. Look for the Civil War Cannon and the museum signs on the right hand side.